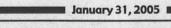
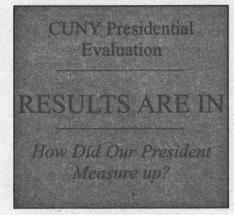
The College of Staten Island

BANNER

New Director Seeks Faculty and Staff Diversity







Diana Illuzzi

During the second week of December 2004, while most students were scurrying about in preparation for their final exams, CSI President Marlene Springer was doing some fussing and preparation of her own.

As part of routine CUNY practice, college presidents are subject to evaluation every five years. 2004 was President

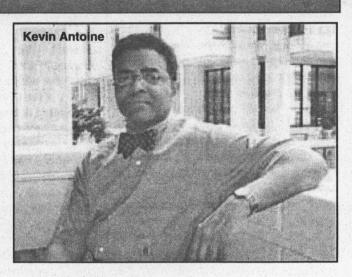
Continued on page 3

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

After the position went vacant for more than a year, CSI now has a fulltime director for their affirmative action program. The appointment of Kevin Antoine was announced in November 2004, and Antoine immediately went to work to modernize the program to include compliance and diversity.

Antoine's first objective will be to make sure that the faculty and staff become more diverse. He believes that, "[The College of] Staten Island is not where it needs to be in respect to other colleges." For instance, 17.9 percent of the executive compensation plan titles across CUNY(President, Dean's, etc.) are black; at CSI, exactly 0 percent are black. Also, on average in CUNY's executive compensation plan titles, 42.2 percent are female; in CSI, only 18.2 are female.

Antoine's office has prepared updated paperwork and revised recruitment information about compliance issues for any department wishing to hire new professors. The next step for Antoine will be to get the college community aware of the importance of the Compliance, Diversity, and Affirmative Action office,



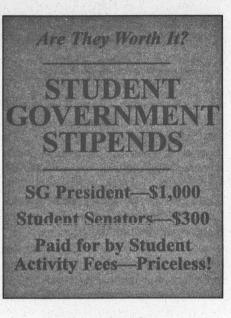
which is located in 1A-103.

Antoine supervises staff and faculty recruitment to make sure that all candidates are diverse and treated equally. The director will report his opinions to the President of the college, so she can make the ultimate decisions. Antoine's office also investigates and mediates sexual harassment issues among students, faculty, and staff.

As soon as the new Director becomes adjusted to the CSI environment, and updates all the necessary materials, he will begin to develop the proper forums for students, staff, and faculty to become more aware of the issues that have not been addressed for too long on campus.

Antoine came to CSI after he lost a close race for a seat in the Mississippi

Continued on page 3



Mellissa Seecharan

On November 18th, CSI's Student Government approved a proposal which allows them to receive stipends for their work as student leaders.

Proposed by Senator Stephanie Donoso on November 4th, members of the Student Government have already received their per-semester checks, which range from \$300 for senators to \$1,000 for student body President, Dwight Dunkley.

"Stipends have not been a priority for this Student Government," said Dunkley. "However, in general it's important to provide an incentive for student leaders, and to offset the financial obligations which leaders sometimes take on."

"I think this system is unfair," said Jessica Mendez, co-Editor in Chief of U Magzine. "Pubications have repeatedly been denied for stipends. As a student journalist, I have spent a great deal of my own money, and I'm not the only one. We should all be compensated—or nobody should be compensated."

CUNY's Board of Trustees gave its student governments the ability to allocate and disburse stipends, while limiting individual students to payments for a maximum of two years. According to Dunkley, unlike other CUNY schools that collect stipends, the amount received by CSI is much lower and is also below the Board of Trustees' established limit, which is slightly more than \$4,000 per semester for each senator.

In an e-mail, Vice President for Student Affairs Carol Jackson asserted that the Student Government, "did not opt to make a stipend proposal until after the election of their President." Once the proposal was amended by the Student Government Finance Commission and approved by the Student Governmen, it was approved by the CSI Association on December 15th.

Kate Freitag

Two weeks ago Governor Pataki unveiled his 2005-2006 Executive Budget proposal for New York State. In his proposal, Governor Pataki outlined \$250 CUNY tuition increase, a 50% cut from Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) financial aid awards, inadequate funding for CUNY, and severe cuts to SEEK, an opportunity program.

Sound familiar? Well, if you have been here at CSI for longer than two years it should. It was only two years ago that Governor Pataki proposed for CUNY students a \$1200 tuition increase, a 1/3 cut from TAP awards, cuts to the SEEK program and insufficient funding for CUNY. Fortunately for us, students organizing with NYPIRG and other groups, here at CSI and



Pataki Balances Budget at CUNY's Expense

across CUNY, fought the Governor's Higher Education budget and were successful. Unfortunately, we still saw a whopping \$800 tuition hike, cuts to SEEK funding, and continued inadequate funding for CUNY.

What is going on here? Well, it seems that once again Governor Pataki is attempting to balance the state's budget on the backs of students. Year after year, our Governor singles out public higher education budgets here in New York State for the most severe budget cuts. This year is no different. Tuition increases, financial aid cuts, and insufficient funding for CUNY will only serve to lessen the accessibility, affordability, and quality of a CUNY education. The Governor's proposed higher education budget will price students out of CUNY.

A \$250 tuition increase may not sound like much, considering we already pay \$4,308 per year in tuition and fees. However, add that to the increasing costs of transportation and living, the hundreds of dollars a year we must spend on books, and considering we just had a massive \$800 tuition hike two years ago, students are being given yet another bill

Continued on Page 3

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT



New Editor Updates ADP

Matt Safford

While we were all busy working to pay off those Christmas bills and blowing into our hands complaining about the cold, another semester snuck up on us. And when most of you were at the mall shopping for last minute gifts, yours truly, CSI's very own unamerican patriot somehow wound up as editor of this little section we call The ADP Page.

Now before all you conservatives out there get your knickers in a twist, hang on. Just because apparently I'm in charge around here doesn't mean every article is going to be a Pinko, Bush-bashing, Leftist Manifesto. If I wanted to preach to the converted, I'd write for The College Voice or The Third Rail. I'm not here to make this section solely a mouthpiece for my own sociopolitical views. Balance is a good thing.

But that doesn't mean that things aren't going to change a bit. We all had fun last semester calling each other names, and slinging some mud around. But it got old really fast, and it doesn't accomplish anything. I've always been better at raking than slinging, so there'll be no more of that sort of thing. We're a team, whether we agree with each other or not. Bringing one of our colleagues down only serves to lower us all a little. We should be striving to move in the other direction. Say what you want in the Letters Page, but don't expect it to spill over into the rest of the paper. Also, since the presidential elections are over, we're going to try to shift gears and go local. We have the Mayoral race about to start cooking, the Jets stadium debate and the proposed Staten Island NASCAR arena to keep us busy. Even closer to home, our newest Student Senator Linda Appu will be keeping us up to date on all the important, scintillating things going on in Student Government. OK, maybe that'll just be a side bar.

The overall idea is to refocus on the original goal of The American Democracy Project. To quote directly from the ADP web page, that's "to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement." In other words, we are hoping to get some students to put down their X-Box controllers, get out from behind their televisions and get involved in the community. You need impressive things to put in your resume, or no one's going to hire you in this economy. Society needs people to make it function, or it goes crazy, possibly turns fascist and then falls apart.

Hopefully we'll take in infinitesimal step away from that direction with the ADP page this semester. We hope inspire a few people to get involved, or at least become more aware. A good first step might be to write something poignant and submit it to The Banner. Just remember we're playing nice this semester. It's all fun and games until someone pokes their eye out.

SG Rep To Help ADP

Matt Safford

You may not know Linda Appu, but if you've spent any amount of time in the blue-trimmed halls of 2S, then you've likely heard her boisterous yet infectious laughter reverberating off the plaster, concrete and glass. If you take the time to follow those echoes to their source, you'll find a young American woman of Indian descent, with the diction and delivery of a game show host, or a carnival barker.

Yet these surface qualities belie the complex character of this senior. She's been a college radio personality, a campaigner for Ralph Nader -in 2000, before he went a little nutty- and at one point, even a business major. But now she is among other things, an English major applying to graduate school, our newest Student Senator, and also soon to be a contributor to The Banner. That's quite the list of accomplishments for a woman who is admittedly shy and unsure of herself. "If I'm not boring" says Appu, "I definitely lack social skills."

Shy she may be, but she is driven and tenacious. And for the rest of her Undergrad career, she will be putting those fine qualities to the task of representing the student body. "I'm not a sycophant and I'm not looking to get elected again" says Appu, who is planning on graduating this summer. "I just want the students and the CSI community to end up better than it is now." Smart and succinct goals, if a bit daunting considering she likely has but one semester to achieve them. But then she's never been one to back down from a challenge.

For the rest of the semester, Appu will be our insider of sorts, offering us a glimpse at what issues are upcoming and ongoing in Student Government. Hopefully she'll inspire some other equally determined students to get involved and improve the CSI experience after she's moved on to bigger and better things. At the very least, she'll cue you in on when and where the SG meetings are, so you can sit in and score some free pizza afterwards.

State of the Borough: Traffic, Parks, and Education

David Maltz

January 19, Williamson Theater-Borough President James Molinaro outlined his administration's achievements over the past year and stated his goals for Staten Island for 2005 in his third annual State of the Borough Speech.

The speech, which was sponsored by SI Bank and Trust, covered numerous topics affecting Staten Island, including plans to fight overdevelopment, improving the ever-worsening traffic situation, and expanding the Bluebelt drainage system, which helps ease flooding in flood-prone areas. The only notable topic not covered in the speech was the controversial, proposed 80,000 seat NASCAR track to be built on the West Shore.

Much of the speech was dedicated to the traffic situation. Among the initiatives proposed to improve the safety and flow of traffic are the creation of new leftturn lanes, the installation of overhead street signs, the opening of roadways that run through the now closed Fresh Kills Landfill by 2007, and possibly a prohibition of left-turns at intersections without a left-turn lane on Hylan Boulevard.

"Our Borough has more than 1,000 miles of roadways, over 1,200 traffic lights, and 7,000 stop signs. And most of us have probably had the feeling that we've encountered each and every one of them, at some point or another," said Molinaro. "We all know that being stuck behind drivers making left turns is one of the major causes of traffic congestion and accidents. At my request, Commissioner Weinshall has commissioned a study for a pilot project. The DOT will analyze whether left turns on Hylan Boulevard should be prohibited unless there is a stacking lane present."

On the overdevelopment front, Molinaro cited the success that the Staten Island Overdevelopment Task Force, which was created by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, had achieved in rezoning neighborhoods in the North and South Shore to curb overdevelopment. "In 2001 and 2002, the Borough President's Office completed the South Richmond Rezoning. In 2003, we completed the Mid-Island and North Shore Rezoning. It affected thousands of acres and almost 40,000 individual properties," said Molinaro. "Buying a home is often the largest investment people make in their lives. I believe they are entitled to a certain quality of life in their home."

Molinaro also touted the creation of new jobs on Staten Island, stating that 500 new jobs were created on Staten Island between 2001 and 2004.

Molinaro considers a freight rail link

with New Jersey, which is expected to be completed later this year, vital to Staten Island's economy. "We'll be moving tens of thousands of containers annually by rail," said Molinaro enthusiastically. "So that means we can remove over 90,000 trucks from Staten Island's highways and bridges...that's good news for our Borough!"

Improving Staten Island's parks is a top priority according to Molinaro, noting that he has spent \$21.5 Million since 2002 on that goal. Among the projects mentioned include a renovation of the trails in the Conference House Park in Tottenville, announced in 2000 and the first phase of which is due to be completed this year, and a master plan for the renovation of Clove Lakes Park.

Molinaro expressed his commitment to education. One project improved computer access at CSI. "In a first for the CUNY system," said Molinaro. "I cut the ribbon on a new Digital Learning Lab, with College President Marlene Springer. I funded this from my Capital Budget, so students could have up-to-the-minute computer technology.

In addition to Molinaro's speech, Mayor Michael Bloomberg made a special appearance and spoke briefly about his commitment to Staten Island. "Staten Island is the greenest borough," said Bloomberg with regards to the borough's parks. "And were going to make it even greener." He also stressed his commitment to easing Staten Island's traffic woes "DOT is working as hard as they can to make things faster," said Bloomberg. Bloomberg announced that homeowners would be receiving a \$400 property tax rebate, as was given last year.

Molinaro used the address as an opportunity to unveil his "Freedom Circle" project, to be open later this year at the South end of the South Beach boardwalk. The circle will have 7 different American flags from different periods in American history. As a preview, Molinaro had 7 different current and former members of the military appear on stage with a flag.

In a tribute to the military, Sergeant Charles Salloum, who fought in the War in Iraq and received the loudest applause of the night, was invited on stage to recite a poem about his mission. "On 9/11, thousands of voices were silenced," said Salloum. "I couldn't tolerate that and the U.S. Military could not tolerate it."

Those who attended the speech were served light refreshments. Turnout was high, despite the snowy weather.

January 31, 2005

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CSI's New Director of Affirmative Action —continued from page 1—

House of Representatives in 1996. During the campaign, he befriended Donald Payn, the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in New Jersey. Payn told Antoine that if he lost the election, to contact him. Antoine naturally did not take him seriously because people say that all the time when they are participating in electoral politics. Bit to Antoine's surprise, when he lost the election, he got a job offer in New Jersey that led to working for a non-profit think tank. This eventually gave him the opportunity to go to Harvard University for an Administrative Fellowship.

When CSI offered the job as new Director for Affirmative Action, it was an easy choice. His home was 30 minutes away, his family was here, and Harvard

"[The College of] Staten Island is not where it needs to be in respect to other colleges." For instance, 17.9 percent of the executive compensation plan titles across CUNY(President, Dean's, etc.) are black; at CSI, exactly 0 percent are black." —Kevin Antoine

was too far away for him to commute every day.

Kevin Antoine has built his knowledge about diversity and discriminatory issues through his life experience. We welcome Mr. Antoine to the College of Staten Island and look forward to working with him.

Student Stipends: Are They Worth It? --- continued from page 1

Student activity fees provide the funds used to pay student leaders. Dunkley sees payments from the activity fee as part of a package. "Students elect Student Government, PDC, and the Association to spend their student activity fees, and most are not aware of each and every check spent on a comedian, or event," he asserted.

If any opposition from the student body should arise, both Dunkley and Jackson agreed that the time, effort, and money the student leaders put into representing students parallels working at any other job. "These elected positions require a tremendous amount of time and energy that students might otherwise have for jobs," Jackson stated. Dunkley also rationalized the payment of stipends based on his own experiences.

"I shared opposition [to stipends] when I first entered Student Government, then I spent money to come to campus for summer meetings and had to schedule some time off from work to take care of Student Government responsibilities," Dunkley said. "I never want to have a senator not come to a meeting or an event because they can't afford the extra dollars."

According to Dunkley, this is not the first time the Student Government has received stipends, but rather, this is the "third consecutive year that stipends are being distributed."

With the news of Student

Government receiving stipends, many other student organizations have been left wondering what happened to them?

"The way I see it is, shouldn't all student leaders get a stipend? We all work hard for the students, don't we?" said Jennifer Mosscrop, Editor in Chief of The Banner.

Although, Dunkley insists that it is fair for Student Government to receive stipends while other student groups do not, he wishes that students in publications or PDC could get stipends. However, last year Dunkley supported a motion in the CSI Association which denied a proposal to give stipends to PDC members who didn't receive one.

ernor Pataki Proposes CUNY Tuition Hike — continued from page 1—

they cannot afford.

In response to the skyrocketing costs of higher education, students often look to TAP and SEEK to make ends meet. TAP was originally started in response to concerns that the increasing cost of higher education might leave many prospective students behind. SEEK is a CUNY program that gives economically and educationally disadvantaged students the opportunity

The Governor's proposed higher education budget will price students out of CUNY

to attend college. SEEK is already horrendously underfunded, and the Governor cuts would mean disaster for the program.

Under the Governor's TAP proposal, CUNY students would see their TAP awards cut in half, with the State's neediest students being hit hardest, each losing over \$2000 in financial aid per year. Under his plan, the lost financial aid would be deferred until graduation. If we don't graduate in 4 years we could lose our back awards. Even when we graduate, there is no guarantee that we will actually receive our awards. Remember that our politicians told us when approving the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge that the toll would disappear once the bridge was paid for. That was years ago.

Governor Pataki is playing games with the futures of tens of thousands of students city-wide in his attempt to fix New York State's budget problems at our expense. We cannot let this happen. For more information on how you can stop this tuition hike and these higher education funding cuts, call NYPIRG on campus at 718-982-3109, send an email to kfreitag@nypirg.org, or stop by our office at 1C-218.

How Did Our President Measure Up? — continued from page 1—

Springer's tenth year in the post, so this was her second such evaluation. Throughout the week, three fellow presidents of non-CUNY institutions visited with President Springer and several members of the faculty, in order to determine the condition of the college under President Springer. Also among those who met with the visiting group were a number of CSI students.

On Monday December 14, the presidential collective met with a group of 12 CSI students to discuss their experience at CSI and their opinions of President Springer's performance. Administrators here at the college composed the student group; one of the main criteria being that the students had previously met the CSI President. Among the students present were Student Government President Dwight Dunkley, WSIA News Director Don Vroome, and myself, former Banner Editor-in-Chief and publication representative to the Student Technology Fee Board.

Seated between the students in a fourth-floor boardroom in building 1A, with no CSI administration or faculty present, the visiting presidents were granted full access to the selected students. The round-table discussion was kept to a strict forty-five minutes, and the conversation left mainly to the students. The general feel of the discussion was positive. Students regaled the collection of presidents with stories of President Springer joining in the karaoke festivities of the Virgin College Mega Tour last spring, attending WSIA sponsored events, arranging trips to the New York Times, greeting students by first name, and taking an interest in sporting events.

Student complaints were few and far between; one being the college not being accommodating enough to student mothers. Another issue discussed among the group was the stigma attached to attending CSI. The group made it clear to the evaluators that the sometimes visible lackluster reputation of CSI had nothing to do with the performance of the President, but rather the unwillingness of the Staten Island community to accept the growth of the institution in the last decade, and the inability of many CSI students to take advantage of the opportunities that are readily available to them on campus.

In the first week of January, students in attendance at the discussion received a letter from President Springer thanking them for their participation in the evaluation process. According to the President Springer the evaluation team reached a "fair, helpful, and satisfying conclusion."

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ATTENTION STUDENTS

Nominate your Professor for the Presidential Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Presidential Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching is intended to recognize full time tenured faculty members for exceptional contributions to the advancement of learning and teaching. The past recipients of this award are professors David Traboulay, Anderson Ohan, and Alvin Silverstein.

The Selection Committee is seeking nominations for the 2005-06 award from which it will submit its recommendations to the Provost to be forwarded to the President for her decision. The award recipient will receive \$1,500 and a citation for her/his achievements in teaching excellence. The award recipient will present a lecture in fall 2005.

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION:

The committee will consider full time tenured faculty members who have made a sustained contribution to the profession of teaching over many years. Nominations may come from an individual or a group of individuals including faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Nominations should include a statement of the achievements of the candidate that supports teaching excellence. In addition, the nominators are strongly encouraged to provide no more than four letters of support from students, alumni, or colleagues.

WHERE TO SEND NOMINATIONS:

Please send your nomination material (i.e., the statement of achievements with no more than four letters of support attached) to Assistant Provost Agarwal in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, room 1A-305 by no later than February 18, 2005.

Any questions related to this award may also be directed to Assistant Provost Agarwal, by e-mail (agarwal@postbox.csi.cuny.edu) or by calling (718) 982-2464.

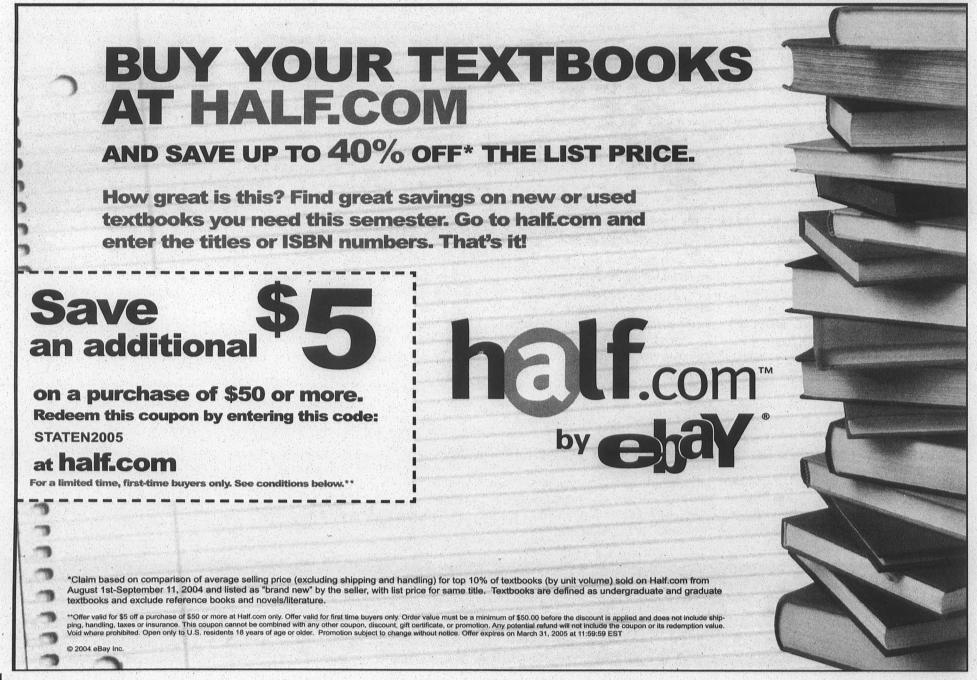
Dear Assistant P	Provost Agarwal:
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You thought it was just a story.

SAM RAIMI AN SCREEN GENS PRENET IN ASSOCIATION WITH SENATOR INTERNATIONAL & GHOST HOUSE PICTURES PROMISION BODGEYMAN' BARRY WAISON HANLY DISCHANEL SKYE MICDLE BARTUSIAK AND LUCY LAWLESS "SJOSEPH LODUCA MILLERIC KRIPKE AND DOLG LEFLER AND ADDRESS AND ADDRESS

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4



editor's desk

Welcome back, faithful Banner readers. It's a new year and The Banner think it's time for a change.

The good news is business is booming over here and we need more space for your articles, photographs, comics, and nasty letters to the editor. Which is why this issue has been retooled with with a new design.

More good news: The Banner welcomes Matt Safford as the new American Democracy Project page editor; Mellissa Seecharan, as the new Arts and Entertainment editor; and my new right hand crony, managing editor David Maltz. I trust that Safford, Seecharan and Maltz will do my evil bidding and push this student newspaper to the next level.

The bad news? I was enjoying 80degree weather in the southeast region of this blessed country (and who knows what baroque acts my hedonistic staff was up to during winter break), when my plane landed in a snowstorm. JFK never looked so lousy. To make matters worse, my buddy crashed my boyfriend's car as he was coming to get us on the Belt Parkway.

But I'm breathing deeply, seeing a meditation therapist, and visualizing a semester of many submissions. Good news, bad news - whatever- read all about it.

- Jennifer Mosscrop

Administration Presses Students to Use Their School E-Mail Accounts

A s part of CSI's effort to switch to the internet for applications for admission and all other correspondence, the Office of the Registrar will try their hand at the increasingly popular form of communication—email. As a result, last semester CSI's Administration provided students with e-mail accounts. Let's face it, more than half of us haven't opened them yet.

"Its an experiment," said Alan Hoffner, Registrar. "Using email will help us communicate important information in an expeditious way."

In the beginning of January, you probably received a pink postcard regarding final grades and the switch to email correspondence. That was the Office's first step in their high-tech attempt. "If this works well, we will move on to the next step — emailing registration appointments," said Hoffner. Eventually, the office wants to branch off email correspondence to specific groups and departments.

Every time you receive your grade report at the end of the semester (usually way after students have already checked them on the walls on campus), a lot of hard work goes into getting these really important documents into your mailbox. It takes an entire day to print 12,000 grade reports; then using what must be a very expensive ripping machine, it takes another full day to break the paper apart; then, after \$3,000 worth of postage, and three-to-four days of postal delivery, you find out you wont' be graduating any time soon. E-mail will cut an entire week out of this process, Hoffner commented.

So how will this change be beneficial to students? Picture this: your class was cancelled because not enough people enrolled in it, and a week later you get a letter in the mail saying that you need to register for a different class, but when you try to register, every single class at CSI has been closed, and no professor will give an overtally. This highly entertaining situation would not have happened if you received an email a week earlier (which would have given you time to enroll at St. Johns). The fast response will make student lives just a little easier.

"It's less of a hassle to register this way," said CSI student, Dennis Kehoe. "Registration is hell, and using the internet makes it much easier."

E-mail messages may sound great to some, but what about those who have limited access to computers and e-mail? Five years ago, the Office of Financial Aid conducted a survey. "We

its original location, 208 Bay St.,

November 12, 1983. "Since we've

opened, we've definitely been a part of

this neighborhood," said Peggy Wonder,

part owner of Everything Goes. Wonder

recalled the article in The Banner as

being "so great, so fun for us to read."

wanted to find out the percentage of students who have internet access," said Sherman Whipkey, who directs the office. "We were pleasantly surprised to learn that roughly 72% of the undergrads and 90% of grad students surveyed had access." Whipkey added that the percentage of financial aid applications filled out has increased and the rate of error, decreased every year since the survey.

The Financial Aid office will also be sending postcards to students in February to remind them to check their CSI e-mail accounts for important information, particularly regarding their financial aid.

"If there is a problem, call us and we will make different accomodations for you," said Hoffner. "I don't want to cram this e-mail switch down anyone's throat." So far no one has contacted Hoffner about any problems with e-mail access.

Students are welcome to pick up a hard copy of their final grades or anything else they need in the office, which is 2A 110. Please contact the Office of the Registrar at (718) 982-2120 with any technical or registration-related problems you may have.

- Jennifer Mosscrop

Op-Ed Complaints, Fears, Rants, Praise, and More Praise

Student Government BS

Thanks to Mellissa Seecharan's ongoing efforts on the Student Government beat, CSI students now know what truly goes on behind closed meeting room doors. Absolutely nothing.

The constant bickering and relentless efforts to get senators to switch sides in the seemingly endless race to elect a Student Government President, created a split table, "dividing student government bitterly," as Stephanie Denoso, the loser of the battle, said in the last installment of the Banner's SG series.

Donoso was also quoted as saying that "a lot of work is needed to create a bipartisanship. The election is over so we need to come together regardless of personal differences." According to current student Senator Yelena Gorokhova, since Dwight Dunkley won the election on October 21, everything has fallen into place. Gorokhova descirbes Dunkley as a"great leader" who is able to run meetings perfectly. "He knows when to call on people, when to stop conversation, and makes sure that everything is achieved in a timely fashion."

Senator Gorokhova also mentioned that she had not seen Stephanie Donoso in a meeting since her loss to Dunkley.

It seems that the work needed to create a bipartisanship is not being equally shared equally by all involved. Members of student government need to realize that the work that they need to do in those two-hour long, bi-weekly meetings is not all that important to the quality of CSI, and that they should spend more time trying to help out the student body instead of bickering among themselves.

- Jaqui Adams

The World Outside the SI Mall: Local Retail Stores Prove Shocking to CSI Students

Can it be true? There are other places to

shop on Staten Island besides the ever

popular mall? Of course! There is always

an alternative to the commercialized

shopping experience, no matter where

es became so controlled and dominated

by television culture that they forgot to

open their eyes as they walk down the

street? The Banner has published a

series of articles under the title, "Beyond

the Mall" last semester, and it seems as

though many students are shocked to

learn that they can shop in places like

Everything Goes, a vintage clothing

store and Mandolin Brothers, the widely

this column revealed that a student had

no idea Everything Goes existed, yet she

admits to living near the shop. She calls

the store "new" yet the store opened at

A recent letter to the editor regarding

popular guitar shop.

Does anyone know when the mass-

you live.

Pay attention to the world outside the mall. You may find some interesting bargains out there. "Shopping at the mall will only ensure that you look just like everyone else, " says Liz Lanzi, CSI student.

- Laura Bruij Williams

An Argument for Choice

If 71% of Americans oppose 97% of all abortions, doesn't that mean there is still 29% who do not oppose? Shouldn't there be a choice?

I recently read an article written by Kola Kozak entitled, "An Argument Against Abortion," and I can't help but feel that there is a completely different side to the story that hasn't been touched. Yes, there are certain risks to the unfortunate procedure, but does being transferred from foster home to foster home fair to a child?

It is widely argued whether an abortion at three months should be considered morally wrong, but the real issue is, shouldn't the mother or parents be responsible for making that decision?

"For us, it came down to whether we were ready for this and honestly, we

weren't," said Vincent Caldone, 18, who recently came to the decision with his girlfriend of four months. "We just couldn't do it at this point."

If you're dealing with two teenagers who can barely take care of themselves, how can anyone expect them to take of a newborn?

If all a child has to look forward to is a life of not having the bare essentials, then I believe it is the parent's responsibility to make that choice. It does not come down to whether or not abortion should be legal, but if the child will be given a fair chance.

- Thomas Lanza

How Safe Are We?

How can anyone be comfortable when a bomb threat has been issued at CSI? Was it okay to have continued entrance into the campus with no warning of possible danger? "We would not close the entire campus," Gene Martinez, Director of Public Safety, told me. "Buildings more sensitive, like the United Nations, would have to be fully evacuated." Are students not worthy?

I do not agree with Mr. Aponte when he said that the college took, "every precaution and it was successful in the sense that the college did everything it had to do." Are the college efforts to keep us protected strong enough? Come on, when will we wake up and smell the reality? CSI's security needs to change for changed times.

-Jonquil Rivera

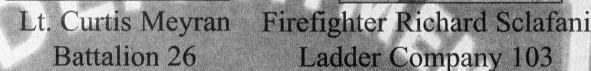
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Tribute to the FDNY



Firefighter John Bellew Ladder Company 27





"We become just by performing just actions, temperate by performing temperate actions and brave by performing brave actions."

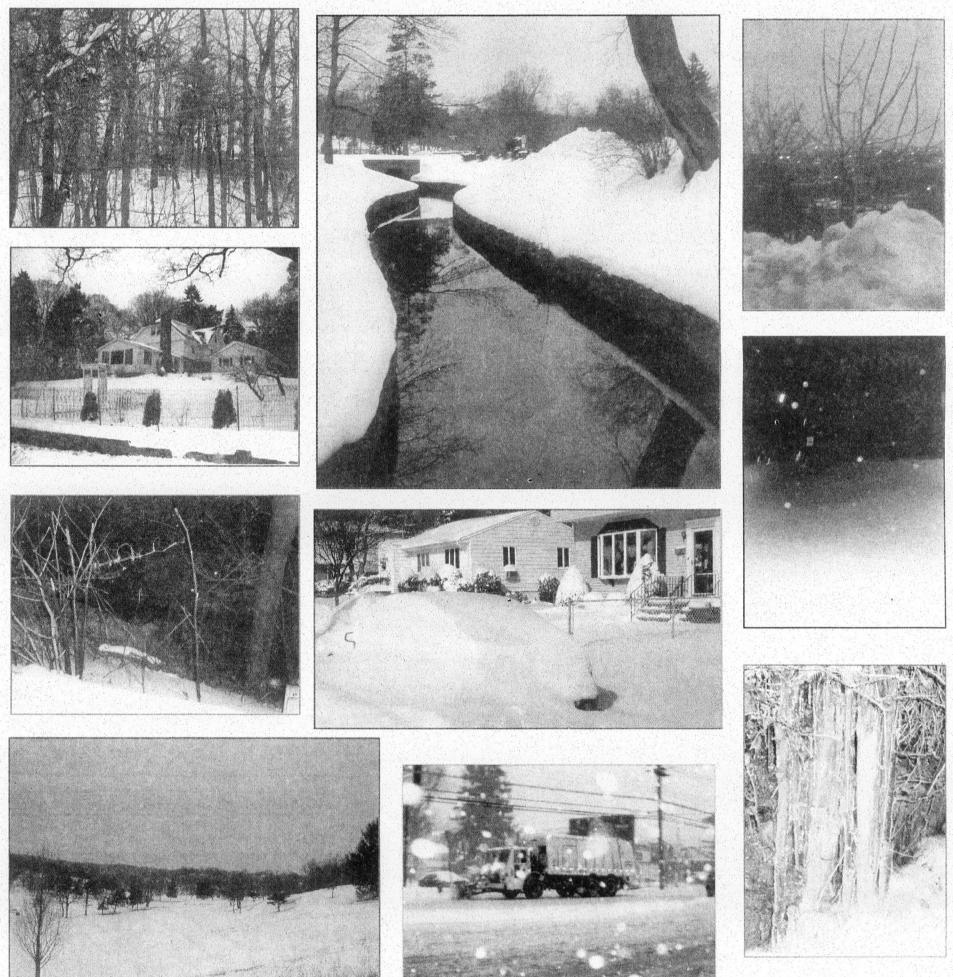
- Aristotle

We at The Banner would like to express our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the three New York City legends lost on Sunday, January 23rd, 2005. These men gave the ultimate sacrifice to assure the safety of others. Let us never forget them or their sacrifice.

The Winter Of Our Discontent



The Blizzard of 2005 may have been an inconvenience to many of us, but with these photos, let us not forget the simple wonder of it all.....



Photos by Luke Crisalli





FEMINIST FATALE! HER TRUE ORIGIN IS A MYSTERY BUT HER MISSION

IS CLEAR: TO TEAR

DOWN THE WALLS OF THIS EMAS-CULATING PATRI-ARCAL SOCIETY AND EMANCIPA-

TING HER FELLOW DOWNTRODDEN

ENRIAVE IGNACIO

WHAT THE

FEMALES.

9

Jessica Mendez

I have been dating the most amazing woman. I've never felt this way about any man before. She's smart and beautiful, with silky, jet black hair, soft golden skin, and luscious, rose-tinted lips. Her style is eclectic and inspiring, and she has a love of all things poetic and artistic. With her, my intellectual side flourishes, and the sex...well, let's just say that with a wiggle of my fingers, she's open. I've known her my whole life but have only now been able to experience her like this. Yes, it seems that dating myself has been a most gratifying experience.

I've been single for over two years (a little less, counting my mad little fling with Bro, in which we pantomimed a couple so well that people narrowly assumed we were one! But I digress). I'll admit, I have only recently begun to truly discover the power of being single because, in the past, I had feared it.

Relationships were never my strong suit, and often, I would find myself hooking up with the same unavailable, confusing guy. Drama was sure to ensue. It was singledom at its worst because, in the back of my mind, I saw being single as a tiny gap in between relationships. I wasn't specifically looking for relationships; I didn't want all of the responsibility and frankly, who the hell has time to look for someone? I certainly didn't. After my last relationship crashed and burned in a most spectacular fashion, I threw myself into school and work. The problem was that the stress of keeping up made me feel just as lonely as before I had had a relationship at all.

In the midst of all of the casual hookups and crossed wires, there was Bro. We served as each other's backups, friends with benefits, if you will. On the surface, it seemed like the perfect complement to our friendship. The problem was, the sex overwhelmed the friendship to the point where the friendship barely existed anymore. So, I did the one thing I thought would save our friendship without abandoning the most excellent sex we were having: I told him I loved him. On IM.

Yeah, I know. The minute the thought left me, I wanted to swallow my words whole. Ohfuckohfuckohfucknononowhathaveldone? Bro's response was a bit more subdued: "You don't love me," he replied. "Hi, have you been around us at all lately? We fight all the time!" And he was right. I did love him, but as a friend. My outbursts and arguments were the result of feeling unappreciated. I went from being an important friend in his life to the person he had sex with. That's how I saw it, anyway.

Telling Bro I loved him was silly and dramatic, but it was one of the best things I could have done. It opened up new doors for us. For the first time in ages, we talked like real friends. He made me see that I was neglecting the most important person in my life: Me! "If you aren't happy with yourself, how can you expect anyone to accept you?" he asked. I knew we needed to not really see each other for a while. That meant no sex, no backup. I was free falling into the singles abyss. Strangely enough, however, I felt calm about it. I knew it was for the best.

Since then, I have been treating myself with love and respect. I'm done with beating myself up for every little mistake I make. I have finally faced every aspect of myself and honestly, even the worst isn't that terrible. The great thing about dating myself is that if I don't like something about the person I'm dating, I can change it! Whatever I am unhappy with, I have worked on improving and the things that make me distinct, I have embraced happily.

Dating myself is awesome! I can go wherever I want and do whatever I feel like doing without having the responsibility of reporting to someone else. I have filled my time doing things I love to do, like reading, writing, and acting, but really focusing on these things. The little free time I do have I spend pampering the hell out of myself and taking care of myself.

Hey, I'm not saying it's all sunshine, lollipops and rainbows. The occasional bout of loneliness hits, but the more I learn about myself, the faster it passes. I am fortunate, as I have managed to surround myself with wonderful people with strong self-esteems and great attitudes about being independent. Take Deborah and Savannah, two friends I have begun spending a good deal of time with. Like me, Deborah has really begun to grow into her own skin. Once shy, she now has a strong, positive attitude. Savannah, a steely blonde, is a take-no-shit kind of girl who is honest, up front and an inspiration to be around. Savannah is all about an exchange of respect, and I admire her for it.

PARTY OF ONE

Are you looking for your "better half?"

Step away from match.com and take a good look in your mirror.

What about sex? Some people say singles sex is the best kind. Take my coworker and resident playboy, Narcissus. After a four-year relationship tanked, he decided to take full advantage of casual sex. "It's beautiful!" he enthuses. "Just spread your legs and poke, poke, poke!" he says with a mischievous grin. It may not be the most elegant statement, but I appreciate the sentiment. At least he's honest. Plus, he's a helluva lot of fun to pass the time at work with.

Besides, I haven't sworn off dating. I met a great friend, Rye, through a blind date and now have a friend to grab a pint with and hang out until the wee hours of the morning. Drinking buddies are always good times.

Last semester, I wrote about love and how everyone deserves a chance at it. That remains true, but that love starts within. I don't doubt that I will be in a relationship some day, but I won't do it until I'm ready. Besides, I got this hot, sexy bitch clamoring for my attention, and I intend to give her every bit of it.

Enrique Ignacio Inocente

Retroviews hargeard

Ryan Dunn (played by himself) has a girlfriend who is sleeping with half of West Chester. To get even, he pays his friends a hundred bucks each to take a crap in the gas tank of her car and smear even more crap all over her garage door. So begins the film Haggard, a delightful raunchy comedy with its fair share of problems.

Ryan Dun is obsessed with his whore of a girlfriend Glauren (Jenn Rivell) who is cheating on him with a crazed heavy metal rocker aptly named Hellboy. Valo (Bam Margera) and Falcone (Brandon Dicamillo) are Ryan's friends who try to help him forget about her, but only get caught up in the whole drama. Through the course of the film, Ryan gets stabbed in the eye with a fork, Valo gets his face pissed on by Hellboy, and Falcone wins a diamond encrusted mountain bike for building the world's first reverse microwave. "It makes ice so fast, it makes beer icy cold, it makes pizza too hot a little colder so you don't burn the roof of your mouth."

The story begins with a fairly amusing prank, but then slows down with too many talking scenes that don't further the plot and could have benefited from better editing. One scene in particular has Ryan get hit in head with a watermelon, followed by an eccentric character laughing like a maniac for a good minute. This scene served no purpose and lasted way too long. The crazy laughing guy makes several appearances throughout the film screaming, dry humping walls, playing the congas, and continued to serve no purpose. Then there are the music video vignettes sprinkled throughout the film that seemed to be put there only to promote the soundtrack and watch a bunch of guys skateboard. Haggard is like a collection of asinine skits tied together with a loose plot and gratuitous skateboarding music videos.

The movie shows the signs of an amateur director, which isn't a bad thing. Director Bam Margera takes everything he's seen in movies and music videos and meshes them together to define his



directing style. He shows his knack of stylish filmmaking with trippy camera angles, fast-time effects, and bright, vivid colors that give the film a very alternative look compared to Hollywood films. Margera knew his target audience and made the film especially for them. People who like skateboarding will be treated to gnarly stunts, and a guest appearance by skateboarding god Tony Hawk. Rock fans will look forward to music videos by HIM and CKY, and fans of Bam will love the Jackass style pranks pulled off in the film. As a bonus, there's even hot lesbian action hidden on the DVD where you can watch girls tongue and finger each other. Though the box cover of Haggard says unrated and uncensored, certain explicit sex scenes and nudity were blurred out.

For aspiring filmmakers, Haggard contains a full-length documentary on the making of the film. You'll learn what went into making the movie, and the technical issues they faced. The documentary is fairly amusing in the beginning, but gradually spirals into a sort of after school special. Skateboarder/actor Brandon Novak, had substance abuse problems (heroin) during the filming. Haggard is aimed at an irreverent fanbase and doesn't pull punches to disgust and get a laugh, and despite some flaws in its presentation, laughing is what you will be doing most of the time. I give this film 3 out of 4 skateboards.

State State

Wolverine # 24

Greg Tumbarello

With Mark Millar's incredible writing and John Romita Jr. supplying the penciled art, it's surprising that an adjective like amazing or spectacular doesn't precede the title. Issue # 24 is a non-stop action comic as our favorite angry Canadian decides to pay Daredevil a visit. The catch? He's there to kill him. But the plot thickens as we realize that he's only part of a bigger picture. Definitely worth picking up!



Nightwing # 101

Starting with Robin's last flight as the Dark Knight's sidekick, this issue begins with the "Year One" storyline that finally shows us what happened after Robin left the nest. A compelling read for any Batman and Robin fan that gives us a surprisingly chilling ending even though we know what's about to happen. Impressive.

Dominic Fiduccia

In 2003, Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic from LucasArts for the Xbox was not only one of the best games for the Xbox, but also one of the best games of the year. Now it's time to do it all over again with Knights of the Old Republic II: The Sith Lords.

The sequel is made for fans of the original. It's a very similar game, with a storyline that picks up where the first one left off. Even though the game made its debut only a year after the original its surprising that the game quest is every bit as big and complex as the first one.

Last year's game took place thousands of years before Episode I of the Star Wars movie saga, and is focused on some of the formative struggles between the heroic Jedi and their evil counterparts, the Sith. In the first game, you eventually discovered your Jedi powers, as well as your mysterious



past. The Sith Lords allows you to play as a different character. A journey of self-discovery awaits, and as you pick up the pieces of your characters past and discover the reasons for his or her (yes you can choose your gender)exile from the Jedi order, your path will lead you to the few Jedi who survived the catastrophic events that took place at the conclusion of the original game. In your search for them, you'll once again visit the remnants of the Jedi enclave on Dantooine. You'll take sides in a political struggle on Onderon between a queen and a general in her army, and you'll search through the lush jungles of its moon, Dxun. You'll also see some ancient Sith burial grounds on Korriban, and more. The story of The Sith Lords turns out to be quite intriguing most of the way through, thanks to some enigmatic and complex characters and a few exciting episodes you'll experience along the way. The adventure is long and can take anywhere from 30 to 40 hours

Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic: The Sith Lords

Star Wars has always been a traditional struggle of good versus evil and the game does a great job with it. The actions that you choose in the game can have real consequences. You'll constantly be faced with good or evil options in your discourse with the game's many characters, and the story always ends differently no matter what you decide during your playing time.

When it comes to the gameplay, there are not many changes from the previous. The new game turns out to be roughly as long and as challenging as the first. The gameplay features three different elements: running from place to place across relatively flat, typically corridor-like environments; interacting with the game's huge cast of characters by choosing from multiple dialogue options (and some of them can be determined by your character's particular abilities); and by doing battle with various types of enemies. The gameplay can occasionally get a little tedious when you're required to travel back and forth between the same areas.

The controls and interface are virtually identical to those of the first game, so you'll once again typically travel with two companions who will gain experience levels at the same rate as your main character which is typical for an RPG.

Overall, it is one of the best games that is exclusive for Xbox—which can be hard to come by—and is great for fans of Star Wars or RPGs.



Hip-Hop, Trick, and Classical Choreography Courtesy of the FLY Dance Company

You won't want to miss the FLY Dance Company at CSI's Center

for the Arts on February 6th. Photo credit: Google Images

Eleanor Guerrieri

CSI's Concert Hall will be pumping when the unique, all-male FLY Dance Company performs February 6th. They will deliver a mixture of hip-hop moves, tricks, classical and modern dance routines, and they will be wearing dazzling, colorful costumes.

CSI dance student Maria Cannella is anticipating the FLY Dancer's performance. "I can't wait until February. I've seen the FLY Dancers before at another college and they were fantastic," said Cannella. "The Dancers are so energetic and enthusiastic."

Managing and Artistic Director Lisa Reilly booked the FLY Dance Company's first CSI concert. Reilly chooses events for their "artistic merit, and with an eye toward a season that represents diversity in terms of cultural and ethnic relationships and artistic genres." Reilly saw the FLY Dancers perform at the Arts Presenters Conference last January. "The company is high energy, with dancers that are well-trained, athletic, artistic and charismatic," she said. "I felt it was one of the best examples I'd seen of hip-hop dance that was accessible to an audience that may or may not have had the extensive experience either with hip-hop culture or with dance in general."

The FLY Dance Company started in

1993 when choreographer Kathy Wood

discovered the talented street dancers performing at a Housten, Texas street festival. When Wood approached the dancers, she was merely interested in hiphop. "Italked with one of the dancers

about his hair (he had dreads)," said Wood. "The

idea for me was to learn about hip-hop." Wood invited the street dancers over to her studio to practice. "I didn't think about a company at that time," Wood said. The dancers then practiced with her and began to listen to her ideas. "I didn't change their movement, I just structured it," she said. Since then the dancers have stayed by Wood's side.

The Company is made up of four talented male street dancers, George Caso, Isaac Barron, Rock Williams, and

Javier Garcia, aged 22-26. They practice in Wood's studio about three or four hours a day. When not practicing, they are probably performing concerts

The FLY Dance Company's 2003-2004 perfomance season includes 59 concerts with over 100 outreach performances and workshops in 19 states. Their workshops feature a short history of hip-hop, a

demonstration of movement vocabulary, an interactive session where they teach some basic movements, and a short Q&A session. '

There are 12 dance skits per concert and various genres of music have been chosen for each. "I only use music that I can listen to a hundred times and not get tired of it," said Wood. "The music must have contrast and a good beginning and ending. I don't want the audience to be bored with the music."

James Brown, The Flamingos, Michael Jackson, Vivaldi, The Propellerheads, Wes Montgomery, Harry Connick Jr., B.B King, Stravinsky, and music from the movie Pi are just some of the offeringschosen by Kathy Wood. From this assortment of music, you can bet this concert will offer surprising choreography.

"Eclair' is my favorite, because it offers everything-great moves, comedy, extra effects and inspiring music." said Paige White, the FLY Dance Compnay's office manager. The Eclair' dance routine uses skateboards, strech fabric and hip-hop. Other dance routines are "Cool Pops," "Out of Context," and "Metaphor." "Cool Pops" takes a look at the pop star icons of the 50's, 60's and 70's. "Out of Context" combines hip-hop with classical artist Vivaldi, "Metaphor" is a slapstick comedy with music by Kabalevsky. There are nine other creative and diverse dance skits to look forward to.

Whether you are interested in choreography, hip-hop culture or music, the FLY Dance company will be sure to put on a unique and entertaining show. Tickets cost \$15, \$12, or \$10 and student tickets are half price! The show starts at 3pm.

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The College of Staten Island



Tournament of Heroes Honors Three Students

Dominic Fiduccia

The third annual Tournament of Heroes was held at the Sports and Recreation Center at CSI on Tuesday, December 28 and Wednesday, December 29, 2004.

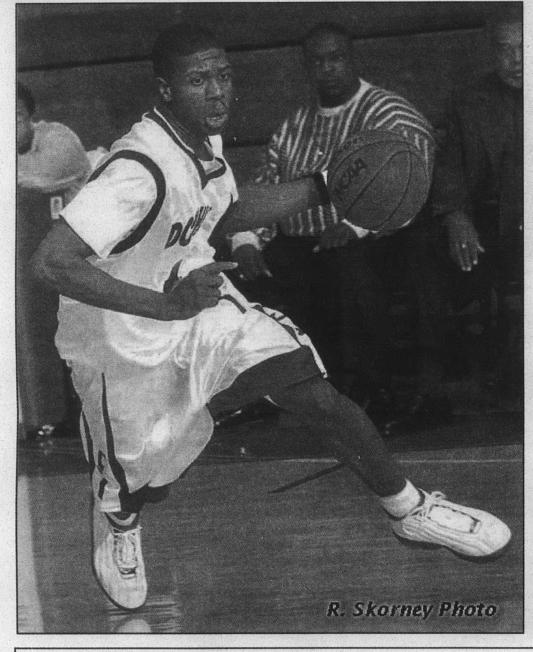
This special two day, four team event honors the three former Dolphins players who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The three men were Terrance Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannatin. Their numbers were retired at halftime during a Dolphins home game on January 26, 2002. They are the first and still remain the only numbers to be retired at CSI.

Coach Tony Petosa, who has coached the Dolphins men's basketball team for fifteen seasons now, created the tournament not only to keep their memories alive, but also as a tribute to those who lost their lives on that tragic day.

The first game held was at 5:30, featuring the Clark Cougars of Worcester, MA, against the New Jersey City University Gothic Knights. The game was close during much of the match, as the Gothic Knights led at halftime, 38-37. The Gothic Knights were able to win the game with the final score, 86-80, and advance to the championship game the next night.

The next game featured the Dolphins against the McDaniel Green Terror of Westminster, MD. The Dolphins didn't have a problem against their opponent with a commanding 53-34 lead at halftime. CSI went on to win the game, 95-74. Senior Guard Michael Stewart had a big game scoring 28 points during the game, the most points by any player in the game. Also of note during the game was Senior Forward Mike Nebavlakis, whose 24 points allowed him to become the 22nd player in Dolphins history to score 1000 points. He accomplished the goal by scoring a three-pointer with 37 seconds left in the game.

This set up the championship game between the Dolphins and Gothic Knights, a rematch of a game the two teams played against each other just two weeks earlier at the Sports and



Ironically, the Dolphins have yet to win the tournament that they created. The Gothic Knights record improved to 6-4. As for the Dolphins, they went 7-3 and remain undefeated in CUNY conference play (3-0). Prior to the championship game a consolation game was held for the Clark Cougars and the McDaniel Green Terror to decide a third place winner. Despite Clark losing at halftime, 32-26, the Cougars easily won the game in the second half with the final score of 65-39.

At the end of the tournament, NJCU's Junior Forward Mark Washington, who scored 36 points in the championship game, was named the tournament's MVP.



Above, CSI Senior Carlito Ulett, a Brooklyn native, showed poise on the dribble drive. Right: Senior forward Mike Nebavlakis became the 22nd player in Dolphins history to score 1000 points.

Recreation Center with CSI winning the game.

It wasn't meant to be this time around as the Gothic Knights had firm control of the game from the beginning. Missing free throws and fouls shots hurt the Dolphins in the game during the first half. Also, the Gothic Knights Freshman Forward/Guard Luis DaSilva made two free throws with no time left in the first half to set up the halftime score, a twenty point deficit of 45-25.

The Dolphins weren't able to do much during the second half as the Gothic Knights led by as much as 40 points with 9:56 left in the game. The Gothic Knights won the game and tournament with the final score of 92-60.

